

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 IO-13 SAJ-01

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R 151252Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1855

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2478

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 8983

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC

SUBJECT: INFORMAL MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS SEPTEMBER 11-12

REF: THE HAGUE 5011

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM SEPTEMBER 13, EMILE NOEL, EC COMMISSION SECRETARY GENERAL WHO ACCOMPANIED PRESIDNET ORTOLI TO THE SEPTEMBER 11-12 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS SUPPLEMENTING INFORMATION FROM THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTED IN REFTEL:

2. TINDEMANS REPORT: NOEL REPORTED THAT THE EC NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS REACHED QUICK AGREEMENT ON A TEXT CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH THE US WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE FOLDED INTO THEIR REPORT ON THE WHOLE TINDEMANS EXERCISE WHICH IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO NOEL, THE TEXT RECORDS THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' AGREEMENT THAT CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH THE US

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ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THAT

CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BASICALLY AS THEY ARE. THE IDEA OF A SINGLE, HEADS-OF-GOVERNMENT LEVEL SPOKESMAN FOR EUROPE, AS ADVANCED IN THE TINDEMANS REPORT, HAS BEEN QUIETLY SHELVED.

3. PORTUGAL: ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO THE SEPTEMBER 11-12 MEETING, NOEL CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE RELUCTANCE TO OPEN ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME THAN THERE HAD BEEN IN THE GREEK CASE. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT SOME KIND OF NEGOTIATION FOR A CLOSER ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND PORTUGAL SHOULD OCCUR IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. NOEL SPECULATED THAT THIS COULD TAKE THE FORM OF AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE A FORMAL ASSOCIATION ARRANGEMENT, WHICH, LIKE THE GREEK AND TURKISH ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS, WOULD LOOK TOWARD EVENTUAL BUT NOT IMMEDIATE PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP. HE NOTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAD BEEN GIVEN A "NUANCED" REACTION WHEN THEY DISCUSSED THEIR INTENTIONS WITH THE GERMANS A FEW WEEKS AGO AND THOUGHT THEY WOULD RECEIVE SIMILAR REACTIONS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS. HINTON

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